


MONTANA.



A CONCISE DESCRIPTION OF THE

CLIMATE, SOIL, GRAZING LANDS,



AGRICULTURAL AND MINERAL PRODUCTIONS

— OF THE —

COUNTRY ADJACENT & TRIBUTARY


— TO THE —

NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD.



Published for the Use of Persons Seeking Information
Concerning this Great New Land.

HELENA, MONTANA:
FISK BROS., BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS.
1882.



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...IN...

MINNESOTA, DAKOTA, MONTANA AND WASHINGTON

AT LOW PRICES AND ON REASONABLE TERMS.

These lands are renowned for their agricultural and mineral productions, and they are in a salubrious and healthful latitude.

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Regarding Washington Territory,

To J. H. HOUGHTON, New Tacoma, W. T.

CHAS. B. LAMBORN,

Land Commissioner, St. Paul, Minn.

tory.



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COMPARATIVE TIME OF DAY



A. 100



494



MONTANA

COMPILED FROM THE LATEST
OFFICIAL RECORDS AND OTHER SOURCES BY

Jacob Medary

REFERENCES

County Seats	2	22
Other Towns	11	2
Indian Agencies	1	10
Railroads	1	22

Year	Number of People (Millions)
1882	38
1884	39
1886	40
1888	41
1890	42
1892	43
1894	44
1896	45
1898	46
1900	48

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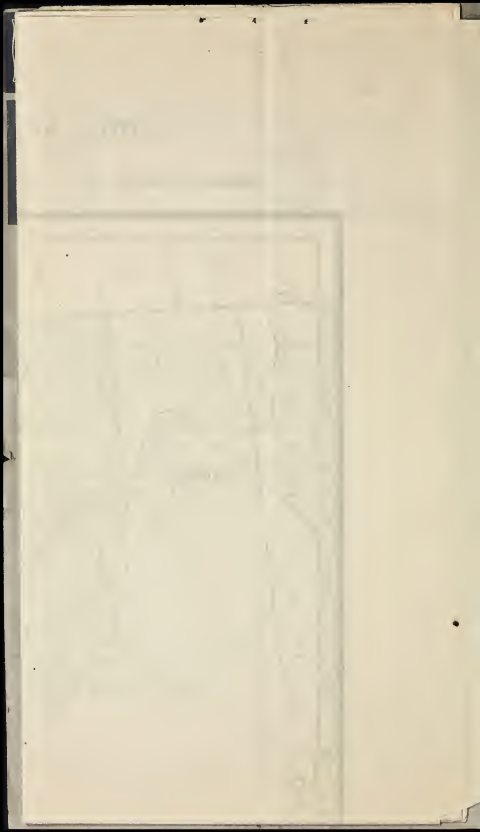
MONTANA:—Its Size, Position, Population, and Principal

Size.—Greatest length, 540 miles; greatest width, 305 miles; area, 140,776 square miles. It is larger than Great Britain and Ireland combined, or more than twice as large as the six New England States.

Its Latitude, as shown on the margins of the map, is the same as that of Northern Italy, the Republic of Switzerland, and the Grand Duchy of Baden. Its southern portion, crossed by the 49th parallel, is exactly midway between the Equator and the North Pole.

The *Yucca of Day*, as shown in upper margin, is in its earliest part, seven hours earlier than at London. When it is noon at London, it is about 5 A. M. at New York, 6 A. M. at St. Louis, 5 A. M. under the meridian which passes near Glendale, 4.36 A. M. under that which passes near Fort Benton, and 4.22 A. M. at Helena.

[illegible]



INTRODUCTORY.

The country tributary to the Northern Pacific railroad in Montana, is an empire in extent. From a point 55 miles east of Glendive, where the railroad first enters the Territory, following the line of the road to the west boundary, is a distance of over 800 miles. The road with but two exceptions—at Bozeman Pass and at Mullan Pass, follows through a series of valleys the whole length of the Territory. The mountain ranges bordering these valleys on either side, shelter them from the devastating effects of wind storms, which are so often destructive in prairie countries. Cyclones are not known here, because if one is formed and starts on its course, it is shattered against the side of the first mountain range with which it comes in contact.

This fact is of great importance, not only to the settler in his own house, but to the owners of the large herds of cattle and horses and flocks of sheep, which are thus saved from destruction. The country desirable for settlers is found in the valleys and table lands between the valleys and the mountains and prairie land.

CLIMATE.

Montana's mild climate is thus scientifically accounted for:

"As bearing upon the question of climate, it is important to consider the comparative altitude of the arable valleys and grazing lands in Montana. We remember hearing the distinguished Agassiz remark that three hundred feet of altitude, in its climatic influence, is equal to one degree of latitude. This must be borne in mind in the following comparisons:

"Even the passes over the highest ranges in Montana usually have an altitude of only 6,000 feet above the sea level—no greater than the plains of Cheyenne, Wyoming. Nearly all the arable valleys of Montana average from 500 to 2,000 feet lower than the most fertile ones of Colorado and Utah. Montana's highest peak would hardly reach the timber line in Colorado. The tables compiled by Prof. Gannett, of the Hayden survey, show that 51,000 square miles of Montana's area are less than 4,000 feet above the sea, while only 9,000 square miles of Colorado's area, and none of Utah's, are at a less altitude than 4,000 feet. Montana also possesses valleys and bench lands, covering an area of 40,700 square miles, at a less altitude than 3,000 feet, while neither Colorado, New Mexico, Utah nor Wyo-

ming contains an area of surface as low as 3,000 feet. The official reports referred to make the mean or average height of Montana above the sea, 3,000 feet; that of Nevada, 5,600; of New Mexico, 5,600; of Wyoming, 6,000; and of Colorado, 7,000. Montana possesses an average altitude of 2,260 feet less than the general average of the before-named States and Territories, equal to more than seven degrees of lower latitude, and thus, compared with them, the lower altitude of the grazing lands more than compensate for their higher latitude.

"Coming more directly to the question of climate, we find that the isothermal line of 50 deg. Fahrenheit, which passes through the wheat growing districts of southern Russia, southern France and westward through Harrisburg, Cleveland and Chicago in our own country, rises north of Montana, into the British possessions. This apparently extraordinary phenomenon is readily explained by the influence of the great Japan ocean current flowing northward from the equator, with a temperature of 86° which pours its heated breath against the low coast lines of Oregon and Washington, and thence inland over plains and mountain tops, even east of Montana's eastern border. This warm wind from the Pacific, known as the 'chinook,' often causes the deepest snows on the benches and valleys of Montana to disappear very rapidly. The westerly winds are more prevalent in winter than those from the cold northeast quarter, and therefore the country, as was first observed by Governor Stevens in his survey, although so far inland, partakes of the well known milder climate of the Pacific coast."

THE GREAT VALLEYS.

The Yellowstone country, and particularly its magnificent valley, has been so adequately described that it is not necessary here to repeat the description. The railroad follows up this grand valley from Glendive to a point twenty-five miles east of Bozeman—340 miles. Thence crossing the Belt range, through Bozeman Pass, 25 miles to Bozeman, where it enters the Gallatin valley. It follows westerly down the Gallatin and Missouri rivers a distance of 100 miles, to Helena. Thence the track will climb the main range of the Rocky Mountains, passing through the summit by the Mullan tunnel, and descending the western slope, continues down the valleys of the Little Blackfoot, Hellgate, Missoula and Clarke's Fork of the Columbia, in a nearly continuous valley to Lake Pen d'Oreille, a further distance of nearly 300 miles—thus following valleys for seven-eighths of its whole length in Montana.

But a short time will elapse before these valleys will be dotted with the houses of the settlers, who will build here thousands of prosperous and happy homes. The tide has already set in, and all lines of travel from the east are crowded with people seeking homes and fortunes in the free and healthful air of Montana.

It would be within the truth to say that several hundred mountain streams, whose waters clear and bright as diamonds, sparkle on every ripple, and which swarm with delicious trout and others of the finny tribe native to mountain streams, flow into the great rivers above named, each watering a beautiful valley, where numerous farms can be made, and where thousands of people will make pleasant homes. Most farms along these streams can be easily irrigated, and grain, and hay (generally native) can be raised in abundance, while the foot hills and mountains back of them afford unlimited pasturage, both summer and winter.

DAWSON AND CUSTER COUNTIES.

Dawson county contains about 25,000 square miles, and is the first reached by the Northern Pacific Railroad from the east. At Glendive, the principal town, it connects the Missouri and Yellowstone rivers by iron bands. Thence following up the valley of the Yellowstone 78 miles we reach Miles City, the county seat of Custer county. This county extends about 177 miles further, or about 30 miles above Billings. Custer county embraces an area large enough for an ordinary Eastern State, or about 32,000 square miles. In climate, soil and productions Custer county offers great inducements to the settler. Both Dawson and Custer counties are rapidly filling up with settlers from the East, the Northern Pacific Railroad affording cheap and easy communication.

GALLATIN COUNTY.

This county, since the first organization of the Territory, has been considered, and still is, the banner agricultural county of Montana. After leaving Custer county, the Northern Pacific Railroad runs through the whole length of Gallatin county in a westerly direction, passing near Gallatin City, where the Jefferson, Madison and Gallatin rivers unite to form the mighty Missouri. In size, Gallatin county is the sixth, and in population, was the fourth according to the census report of 1880. It has an area of about 10,000 square miles. By a late act of Congress, just approved by the President, about 2,000 square miles from the west end of the Crow Indian reservation have been added to it. This new addition embraces some fine farming and grazing land, also the celebrated Clark's Fork mines, which are very extensive and rich. The ores are generally an argentiferous galena, and are easily smelted. A smelter has been erected in the district. Besides these mines, lodes rich in gold have been discovered on Bear and Crevice gulches, on the upper Yellowstone. At Emigrant gulch placer gold mines have been successfully worked for eighteen years.

Gallatin is mainly a farming and grazing county. A large portion of its agricultural land is as yet unoccupied by settlers. The soil is rich and easily cultivated. Water is abundant and sufficient to irrigate every acre in the county that does not lie above the streams, and much of the land on the foot-hills does not require irrigation.

The Madison river runs through a portion of the west side of the county, while the West Gallatin, Middle Fork, and the East Gallatin and many small streams flow across the more central portion, west of the range, which separates it from the Yellowstone valley. The portion of the county lying on the Yellowstone river is watered by the Yellowstone itself, and by Shield's river, Big Timber, Little Timber, Sweetgrass, White Beaver and Kiser creeks coming in from the north, and by Emigrant, Mill, Skull, Big and Little Boulder creeks and the Stillwater from the south. Speckled trout abound in all these streams.

Bozeman, the county seat, contains over 1,000 inhabitants and has a fine court house, several church buildings, a school house that would be a credit to a much larger place East, and many private residences both costly and handsome, good hotels, a large grist mill, a planing mill, and is a handsome, thriving village.

The scenery is most picturesque. From Bozeman it is but 75 miles to the Mammoth Hot Springs, in the Yellowstone National Park, and hundreds of tourists gather here yearly to outfit for visiting these springs, the Yellowstone Lake and Falls, and the wonderful geysers. Besides being the largest grain growing county in Montana, the assessment returns of 1881 showed Gallatin county to be rich in live stock—31,416 head of cattle, 19,051 head of sheep, and 7,837 head of horses were returned by the assessor for taxation. The population of the county in 1880 was 3,643. The immigration of 1881 increased it to 5,000. Undoubtedly 2,000 more people will settle in its rich valleys the present year.

MADISON and BEAVERHEAD COUNTIES.

Adjoining Gallatin county on the west lies Madison county, and adjoining that still farther west is Beaverhead county. They are in the extreme south-western part of the Territory. The Madison and Jefferson rivers the two largest of the three rivers which form the Missouri, traverse their surface, and with their tributaries, form many pleasant valleys.

Madison river, a large clear stream, flows through the whole length of Madison county from south to north, near its eastern border. Its valley and the adjacent foot hills contain a large amount of fine farming and grazing land. Ruby river flows nearly through the centre of the county from south to north. Its valley is noted for its productiveness and the beauty of its surroundings, being bordered by high mountain ranges, which abound in the precious metals.

On Alder creek, one of its tributaries, is situated Virginia City, the former capital of the Territory, and the present seat of justice for the county. At this place are the celebrated Alder Gulch gold mines, which within four years after their discovery in 1863, yielded upwards of \$30,000,000. These mines are still worked at a handsome profit.

The Bighole, Beaverhead and Ruby rivers unite and form the Jefferson river about seventy-five miles above its junction with the Madison and Gallatin rivers at Gallatin City. Their valleys and those of their principal tributaries, as Red Rock and Blacktail rivers, in Madi-

son county, and Horse Prairie, Grasshopper and Rattlesnake creeks, in Beaverhead county, drain a large surface of country, and embrace a great amount of fine pasture and farming land yet open to settlement.

The main Rocky Mountain range forms the southern boundary of Madison and Beaverhead counties. In them many valuable mines of gold, silver, lead, copper, iron and coal are found. Placer mines are extensively worked along many of the smaller streams flowing from these mountains.

At Bannack City gold lodes and placer mines are extensive. At Glendale large smelters reduce the rich argentiferous silver ores in the vicinity.

Timber is abundant on all the slopes of the mountains in these counties, and the water supply is unfailing.

The principal towns of Madison county are Virginia City, Sterling, Lorraine's (or Cicero), Sheridan, Salisbury and Silver Star. Puller's Hot Springs are noted for the medicinal virtues of their waters.

Bannack, Dillon and Glendale are the principal towns of Beaverhead county.

These fine counties will be easily accessible from Bozeman, Gallatin City or Helena on the line of the Northern Pacific Railroad.

MEAGHER COUNTY.

Immediately north of and contiguous to Custer and Gallatin counties lies Meagher, famed as the greatest grazing county of Montana. In 1881 the assessor returned 6,071 head of horses, 94,426 head of sheep, and 65,534 head of cattle, and a population of but 2,744. The county exceeds 100 miles in width and 200 in length, and contains over 20,000 square miles. The upper Missouri flows the whole length of its western boundary, and the Musselshell river forms a natural boundary between it and the counties east for a distance of 100 miles. The Judith and Smith rivers are the other most important streams. Many others rise in and traverse it, and discharge either into the Missouri on the north or the Yellowstone on the south. The water is abundant and pure, the streams having their sources in the mountains. Many valleys yet remain to be settled, and the foot-hills afford unlimited pasturage.

The mountains abound in minerals. Gold, silver, copper, lead, iron and coal are constantly being discovered. In the vicinity of Fort Maginnis gold lodes and placer mines appear to be extensive, and hundreds are flocking to them from every part of the country. They can be easily reached from the Northern Pacific on the Yellowstone. The roads are good, and there is an abundance of grass on all the routes for the use of animals. The Northern Pacific traverses twenty miles of the western part of Meagher county, down the valley of the Missouri river.

The new town of White Sulphur Springs, on Smith river, was made the county seat in 1881. The springs are hot and are famed for their medicinal virtues. The site of the town is, exceedingly picturesque, and the place is growing rapidly. Many new settlers are continually arriving, and new towns are springing up wherever needed. The oldest and principal town is Diamond City, noted for its placer mines. The bars along the Missouri river below the mouth of Confederate gulch are still extensively mined for gold. Maiden, Fort Logan, Martinsdale, Canton and Centerville are the other principal towns in the county. The Missouri valley, near the line of the Northern Pacific, is noted for its fine soil. It is the granary of Meagher county. The valley east of the river is from three to eight miles wide. The margin along the river is mostly occupied, but thousands of acres are yet open to settlement. Meagher county can support a population of 100,000 people in great comfort.

CHOTEAU COUNTY.

Choteau is one of the largest counties in Montana. It contains nearly 30,000 square miles, and is noted for its fine pastoral and agricultural lands. Unfortunately more than one-half of it is set apart as an Indian reservation. Benton is the principal town, and is the county seat—population, 1,500. It is situated at the head of navigation on the Missouri, and is a town of great importance. The great falls of the Missouri are 25 miles above Benton. Here the river is 300 yards wide, and plunges over a precipice perpendicularly ninety feet. Above the great falls, in a distance of ten miles, are twelve

distinct falls, and the total descent of the river in that distance is about 400 feet. They probably constitute the greatest available water power in the world. Hundreds visit them annually, and for grandeur and beauty they are only excelled by the Great Falls of the Yellowstone. They are 100 miles from the Northern Pacific at Helena, and should be visited by every tourist or pleasure seeker.

The portion of Choteau county between the north line of Meagher and the Missouri and Maria's rivers is a fine grazing country, and contains much good farming land. It is as yet sparsely settled.

Great numbers of rich lodes of gold and silver bearing rock have lately been discovered in the Barker district and at Maiden—from 60 to 90 miles south from Benton. One smelter is in successful operation at Barker. The discoveries are comparatively new, and it will take some time to develop their full value.

JEFFERSON COUNTY.

Jefferson county lies between Gallatin and Madison counties on the south and Lewis and Clarke and Deer Lodge counties on the north, is west of Meagher county and east of Silver Bow. The Jefferson and Missouri rivers half encircle it on the south and east, and the valleys bordering them are very fine. The Boulder, Crow creek, Pipestone, Fish creek and White Tail are its principal streams. The valleys of these streams are broad, and yield fine crops. There is yet considerable vacant land in the county. It is easily accessible, as the Northern Pacific passes directly through it.

The county is noted for the vast number of mineral lodes it contains, which have proved valuable. At Wickes, Elkhorn, Basin city and at the Gregory mine large mining works are in successful operation and daily turn out many tons of silver bullion. At Radersburg, on Crow creek, the placer mines are worked for their gold.

The principal towns are Radersburg, the county seat, Boulder City, Jefferson City, Wickes and Clancy. Although the county is one of the smallest in area in the Territory, it holds its rank for productiveness of live stock, farm products and the precious metals.

SILVER BOW COUNTY.

Silver Bow county has the distinction of containing the largest and best developed quartz district in Montana, and any attempt at description here would be superfluous. It contains but little agricultural land that is unoccupied. The great industry of the county is mining, and out of it has grown within five years past Butte City—a magic city—whose growth has few parallels in the history of mining camps. Although much the smallest county in area, its assessed value considerably exceeds that of any other county in Montana, being \$4,106,767, nearly all of which has been created during the five years past. Butte City, the county seat, has a population of about 7,000. It will have railroad connection with the Northern Pacific at the mouth of the Little Blackfoot.

LEWIS AND CLARKE COUNTY.

Lewis and Clarke county is centrally situated in the western half of the Territory, in the midst of the oldest and earliest settled sections. Helena, the Capital of the Territory, is located here, where all the stage, telegraph and express routes of the country converge. Helena is in telegraphic communication with every county seat except White Sulphur Springs, and with all the principal towns, and by military telegraph with all the U. S. forts in the Territory. These lines connect with every main telegraph line from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

As well as being the political Capital, it is the commercial and financial centre. The population of the city is about 6,000, and of the county 8,000. The area is 2,700 square miles. Its assessed value in 1881 was \$3,709,387. In 1881 the assessor returned 9,826 horses, 497 mules, 22,871 sheep and 20,409 cattle for taxation. The private deposits of individuals in the First National Bank exceeds \$1,000,000.

In the number of churches and schools, fine and tasty dwelling houses, large and elegant stores and public buildings, and in the refined and honorable character of its inhabitants, Helena will compare favorably with other places of her population. She has two daily newspapers, edited with ability, and they publish, morning and evening, news from all quarters of the globe. The U. S. Assay Office is located here.

The Missouri river separates this county from that of Meagher on the east, and the summit of the Rocky Mountains is the dividing line between it and Deer Lodge county on the west. Sun river bounds it on the north and separates it from Choteau county.

The Prickly Pear, Ten Mile, Dearborn and Sun rivers flow across the county easterly to the Missouri river. Farming is carried on profitably in all the valleys. Much land remains to be taken. Stock raising is one of the largest interests of the county. The wholesale and retail trade of Helena is large and is a profitable business. Foundries, saw and grist and planing mills, wagon factories, etc. are located as required.

Both placer and quartz mining are great industries. Some of the best districts in the Territory are in this county. Lumber and all other building materials are abundant and reasonable in price, as are all the necessities of life.

The Northern Pacific Railroad, in its course from the east, crosses Lewis and Clarke county northwesterly, and passing through the city limits to the main Rocky Mountain range at Mullan tunnel (3,850 feet long) fifteen miles west of Helena, enters Deer Lodge county near one source of the Little Blackfoot, the valley of which it descends, and then continues northwesterly toward Missoula and the Pacific ocean.

DEER LODGE COUNTY.

Deer Lodge county is noted for the number, extent and richness of its placer mines. For years it has led in the production of placer gold. The Deer Lodge and Hellgate rivers and Rock creek traverse it from south to north its whole length. The beautiful Deer Lodge valley spreads out from five to ten miles wide, between the Rocky and Deer Lodge ranges, for a distance of sixty miles. Besides these

a number of lateral valleys open into it, bordering the numerous and beautiful streams which enter the main river from either side. Many fine farms are located in these valleys, while the foot-hills and mountain sides are covered by a most luxuriant growth of grass, except where excluded by the heavy growth of timber, which more or less covers all. Many settlers can here secure valuable farms.

In 1881 Deer Lodge county had 6,763 horses, 36,420 sheep, 14,308 head of cattle.

Deer Lodge (as handsome a town as is in Montana), Philipsburg, Pioneer, New Chicago and Blackfoot City are the principal towns. It has an excellent newspaper, published weekly—the *New North-West*.

Besides the public schools, a fine collegiate building, a Catholic school and the United States Penitentiary are located at Deer Lodge. Eighteen miles above are the famous Warm Springs.

The Big Blackfoot, in the northern part of the county, is a large stream and runs through one of the finest grazing and agricultural sections of Montana. It is as yet sparsely settled, and hundreds of choice selections of land can now be made. Nevada creek, a tributary of the Blackfoot, is also noted for its fine grazing and agricultural land. Each valley is contiguous to the line of the Northern Pacific Railroad.

Rock creek is a fine, bold mountain stream, which enters the Hellgate river from the southwest. Its waters flow some sixty or eighty miles in the mountain range between the Deer Lodge and Bitter Root valleys.

MISSOULA COUNTY.

Missoula county has an area of 30,000 square miles. It lies in the extreme northwestern portion of Montana, and is on the Pacific slope. It is bounded on the north by the British possessions, on the east by Deer Lodge and Choteau counties, on the south by Beaverhead county, and west by Idaho Territory. From a scenic point of view it is not excelled by any portion of Montana; its waters are sparkling and clear and pure, when not muddled by placer mining, and composed of the Missoula (or Hell Gate), the Bitter Root, Jocko, Flat-

head, Pen d'Oreille, Lo Lo, Stony creek, Big Blackfoot, Ashley creek, and hundreds of small streams tributary to those mentioned. The valleys are from 30 to 150 miles in extent and from one to ten miles wide, and many of them are hardly as yet explored. The Bitter Root and Hell Gate valleys are the most thickly settled, but there is still room for hundreds of settlers in each of them. Small towns are springing up as settlers come in and as trading marts are demanded, for a store usually forms the lodestone, which eventually attracts post office, blacksmith shop, hotel and saloon. In these towns, lawyers, doctors and other professional men can get a foothold upon which to climb to fame and fortune; but they must be the kind of men who are willing to work at farming, taking care of horses, rough carpentering, or, in fact, anything that offers itself.

The Northern Pacific Railroad, comes up the Pen d'Oreille, or Clark's Fork of the Columbia, to Horse Plains, a small but fertile valley perhaps six miles long and three miles wide, where the tenderest vegetables can be grown and the smaller fruits. Here it crosses the Flathead Indian reservation, and again reaches government and railroad land at Camas Prairie, some fifteen miles below Missoula. Extending northward from Horse Plains to the head of Flathead Lake (a beautiful sheet of water, studded with islands and abounding with fish and water fowl, with plenty of larger game in the neighborhood) is a country offering splendid inducements to the agriculturist and the stock raiser. Seven townships are laid out here, but most of the country is unsurveyed. Quite a number of settlers have already located there this spring, and many more are looking forward to this region as the best in the county in which to locate a home. The majority of this section of country is so far north of the railroad line that it is subject to entry under the land laws of the United States, but it is not so far away but that supplies can be shipped to it via the N. P. Road in a few days. One store is located in this region, and mail facilities are now almost accorded it. Many locations in the Hell Gate valley, after the railroad crosses the Indian reservation, are already secured by actual settlers; but there are others which the first settlers have overlooked, and can now be secured.

Coming to Missoula, the Bitter Root valley stretches away to the south, for a distance of 125 to 150 miles. The lower portion of it is pretty well taken up, but some 75 miles of the upper portion has but few settlers. In the extreme upper end of the valley splendid inducements are offered for farmers and stock raisers. In the valley of the Hell Gate, above Missoula, quite a number of fine ranches are open for entry on either side of the river.

Six miles above Missoula the Big Blackfoot empties into the Missoula river. It waters a large extent of country, probably a hundred miles back, but as no road has ever been built up the river, it is but little known to the agriculturist. Some twenty-five miles from its mouth, however, is a valley about twelve to fifteen miles in length, and varying from one to five miles in width, which is a marvel of wealth in soil and beauty of surroundings. It is known as Camas Prairie, is yet unsurveyed, but will afford farming facilities for fifty families. Natural hay grows there two to three feet in height.

About twenty-five miles above Missoula, on the opposite side of the river from the wagon road, a creek, known on the maps as Stony creek, but more familiarly hereabouts as Rock creek, empties into the Missoula river. It makes but little show as it comes into the Missoula, but it waters a valley some seventy-five miles in extent. Sometimes it runs in a close rocky canyon, but at others it widens out into a beautiful fertile valley, with rolling hills to the side. This valley is but little known except to the sportsman. The waters of Rock creek, as indeed do all our mountain streams, abound in trout, and the angler can satisfy his fishing instincts to the fullest extent.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Many of the districts in the Territory have public school buildings that will compare favorably with those of any of the States. The report of the Territorial Superintendent of Public Instruction for the year 1881 shows the number of public schools to be 164, with an enrolled list of scholars numbering 5,112. There are 134 school houses valued at \$140,250.33. The total revenue from all sources for school purposes being \$121,349.23, and the average compensation of teachers employed throughout the Territory \$62.50 per month. In addition to the public schools there are many private schools of such a character that they would be an honor to older and more thickly settled communities. The high schools at Helena, Deer Lodge, Virginia City, Butte and Bozeman afford excellent opportunities for acquiring higher education, while the common schools, highly treasured, will compare favorably with those in Eastern States.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION.

The exemption laws of Montana are quite liberal, as they exempt from attachment and execution the homestead of the family, not exceeding 160 acres, and of the value of twenty-five hundred dollars; all wearing apparel of the family, one sewing machine, household and kitchen furniture, provisions and fuel for family use, one horse, two cows with their calves, two swine and fifty chickens; also the personal earnings of a judgment debtor for thirty days next preceding the levy of execution or attachment; also farming implements, tools of mechanics, library and instruments of professional men, and the dwellings, tools and machinery of miners. All trades and professions are protected so that parties may not be left without the appliances wherewith to earn a livelihood. The property of widows and orphan children not to exceed the amount of one thousand dollars to any one family is exempt from taxation. Nevertheless, Montana has not sought to provide a refuge for the debtor class but to secure beyond the vicissitudes of fortune enough to enable her families to keep want from their doors.

Along the whole line traversed by the Northern Pacific Railroad in Montana there is an abundant supply of yellow and white pine, red fir, cedar, cottonwood and other timber for fuel, fencing, building and other purposes.

Money usually loans at one and one-half per cent. per month. This Territory has no usury laws. The legal rate of interest is ten per cent. per annum, but written contracts for greater rates can be enforced. Actions for the recovery of real property must be commenced within five years. Upon judgments or any contract founded upon an instrument in writing within six, and upon an open account within three years.

A residence of six months in the Territory and thirty days in the county entitles any male citizen of the United States, or any foreigner who has declared his intention to become such citizen, above the age of twenty-one years, to vote at an election for Territorial, county or precinct officers.

In 1878 the assessed value of all property in Montana was \$12,777,028; in 1879, \$15,508,880; in 1880, \$18,609,802; in 1881, \$24,040,806—showing an increase of \$5,431,004 in 1881 over 1880, and of \$11,263,778 in four years from 1878 to 1881.

This wonderful result was caused by the known fact that the Northern Pacific Railroad was being built toward Montana. Who can estimate the increase in wealth and population in the same time after this road shall have been completed the whole length of Montana, and from Lake Superior to the waters of the Pacific?

The great productiveness of the valleys of Montana is abundantly proved by the following table, for the benefit of the incredulous:

ABSTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE UNITED STATES CENSUS OF 1880.

PRODUCTION OF WHEAT, OATS AND BARLEY.

STATE OR TERRITORY.	Yield.—Average No. bushels per acre, counting the whole crop.		
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.
MONTANA	26 ½	40 ½	30 ½
Washington	23 ¾	41	40
Ohio	18	31	29 ¾
California.....	17 ½	28	21
Oregon	16 ¾	28 ¼	31 ¼
New York	15 ½	30	21 ½
Dakota	15 ½	30	18
Minnesota	11 ½	36	25 ¾
Texas	8	20	14 ½

CONCLUSION.

All who read the facts and descriptions above given about the country which lies immediately along the line of the Northern Pacific Railroad in Montana must be convinced that no new Territory of the United States, nor any land under the sun, promises so much to the

industrious poor man seeking a home, or to the capitalist seeking for profitable investments, as the Territory of Montana. For a healthful climate and pure air, for a rich and productive soil, for illimitable pasture fields where the grass is perennial, for unnumbered mines of the precious and useful metals and minerals, for inexhaustible supplies of lumber and coal, for innumerable streams of the purest water, fresh from never-failing mountain springs, and above all, where all can be secured at first cost by one's own honest labor, where is there another such a country? There is none on the face of the globe.

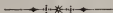


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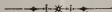
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